

How is Everyone Feeling in Japan?

Learn how to ask "How are you?"

Mark Complete

Also Appears In:

Conversational Japanese for Absolute Beginners

Throwback Thursday

Absolute Beginner Season 2

Dialogue

Vocabulary

Lesson Notes

Grammar

Lesson Transcript

Comments

Dialogue - Japanese

Hide

Kanji

English

Rōmaji

All

(Skype)

A: げんきですか。

B: はい。テイラーさんは？

A: はい、げんきです。

B: ちえみさんとサラちゃんもおげんきですか。

A: はい。マトリー もげんきです。

Vocabulary

Hide

English

Kana

Rōmaji

と [と]

1 EXAMPLE

and (as in 'Noun' and 'Noun')

みずとメニュー、おねがいします。

Some water and a menu, please.

おげんきですか。 [おげんきですか。]

1 EXAMPLE

How are you? (very formal)

いもうとさんはおげんきですか。

How is your younger sister? (Very formal)

げんき [げんき]

1 EXAMPLE

energetic, fine, healthy; Adj(na)

元気ですか。

How are you?

も [も]

1 EXAMPLE

also, too; particle

これにもくです。

This is also meat.

げんきですか。 [げんきですか。]

1 EXAMPLE

How are you? (formal)

いもうとさんはげんきですか。

How is your younger sister? (formal)

Add to Flashcard Deck

Add to Word Bank

Slideshow

Take Quiz

Lesson Notes

Hide

Lesson Focus

The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking How Someone Is.
げんきですか。
Genki desu ka.
"How are you?"

In this lesson, you'll learn how to ask "How are you?" using the "A wa B *desu ka* (Is A B?)" sentence structure.

How to Ask How Someone Is

In Japanese, we say *Genki desu ka?* meaning "Are you well?" to ask how someone you are talking to is. If you want to ask "How is [someone else]?" the third person is marked by the particle *wa*.

Formation

- Genki desu ka?* → "How are you?"
- [Someone] *wa genki desu ka?* → "How is [someone]?"

* Please note that we could translate *[name] wa genki desu ka?* as "How are you, [name]?" or "How is [name]?" depending on the context.

Sample Sentences

1. ペットはげんきですか。
Petto **wa genki desu ka.**
"How's your pet?" (Literally, "Is the pet well?")

2. ちえみとサラはげんきですか。
Chiemi to Sara **wa genki desu ka.**
"How are Chiemi and Sara?" (Literally, "Are Chiemi and Sara well?")

3. たなかさんはげんきですか。
Tanaka-san **wa genki desu ka?**
"How is Mr./Ms. Tanaka?" or "How are you, Mr./Ms. Tanaka?"
(Literally, "Is Mr./Ms. Tanaka well?" or "Are you well, Mr./Ms. Tanaka?")

How to Answer

The most common way to answer *genki desu ka* is *hai, genki desu*.

For Example:

1. A: *Genki desu ka?*
B: *Hai. Genki desu.*
A: "How are you?" (Literally, "Are you well?")
B: "I'm well." (Literally, "Yes. I'm well.")

Variations

■ おげんき (*O-genki*)
Genki desu ka is a formal expression, but you can be even more polite by adding *-o* in front of *genki desu ka?* Please note that we can only use *o-genki* when asking the question, not when replying!

- O-genki desu ka?* → "How are you?" (very formal)
- [name of a person] *wa o-genki desu ka.* → "How are you, [name]?" or "How is [name] ?"

■ ---は？ (---*wa*?) "How about you, ---?" "And you, ---?"
When asking the same question back, it's common to stop the sentence at the particle *wa* instead of completing the sentence. See the examples below.

For Example:

1. A: *Genki desu ka.*
B: *Hai. Genki desu. A-san wa (genki desu ka)?*
A: "How are you?"
B: "I'm fine. And you?"

2. A: *Banana ga suki desu ka.*
B: *Hai. A-san wa (banana ga suki desu ka)?*
A: "Do you like bananas?"
B: "Yes. How about you?"

3. A: *Arerugi ga arimasu ka.*
B: *Iie. A-san wa (Arerugi ga arimasu ka)?*
A: "Are you allergic to anything?" (Literally, "Do you have any allergies?")
B: "No. How about you?"

■ ---*mo genki desu.* "---is also fine/well."
The particle *mo*, meaning "also" or "too," appeared in the dialogue.

For Example:

1. ちえみさんとサラちゃんもおげんきですか。
Chiemi-san to Sara-chan mo o-genki desu ka.
"Are Chiemi and Sara well too?"

2. マトリー もげんきです。
Matorī mo genki desu.
"Muttley is well too."

Reference

mo (particle) → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 15

Key Vocabulary & Phrases

★ と (*to*)
When the particle *to* appears between nouns, it combines the two nouns, and we often translate it as "and." See the examples below!

For Example:

1. *Chiemi to Sara*
"Chiemi and Sara"

2. *Mizu to jūsu*
"water and juice"

★ げんき (*genki*)
Genki means "healthy," "well," or "fine," and we often use it to describe how someone is.

Cultural Insights

Should You Expect a Response to This Polite Question?

In English, we tend to use "How are you?" as a greeting no matter when we last saw the other person, and sometimes we use it as a substitute for "Hello" without actually caring too much about the answer(!).

In Japanese, however, as a general rule, we only use げんきですか？ (which we usually translate as "How are you?") when we really want to know about the other person's well-being. So we don't tend to use げんきですか？ as an everyday greeting, but rather we say it to someone we haven't seen for a while.

Download as PDF

Grammar

Hide

Below is a list of the grammar points introduced or used in this lesson. Click for a full explanation.

は？ wa?

inferred question

Introduced

は wa

Topic maker, As for

Used

です desu

to be (copula)

Used

か (1) ka (1)

question particle

Used

Lesson Transcript

Show

GET 35% OFF

PREMIUM & PREMIUM PLUS

EXTENDED!
ENDS 10/29/2023

CLICK HERE

Comments

Show

JapanesePod101.com

LEARN JAPANESE

ABOUT US

HELP CENTER

Dashboard

Lesson Library

Flashcards

Vocabulary Lists

Japanese Resources

My Teacher

Mobile App

Our Method

Our Story

Meet the Team

What People Say

Plans & Pricing

In the News

Languages We Teach

Schools & Businesses

Blogs

Affiliate Program

Help Center & FAQ

Getting Started

Billing and Subscriptions

My Account

Using the Platform

Teaching Methodology

Learning With a Teacher

Contact Us

UPGRADE TODAY

GET FLUENT FASTER

Follow 1M

innova**ti**veLANGUAGE.COM

COPYRIGHT © 2023 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. JAPANESEPOD101.COM PRIVACY POLICY | TERMS OF USE.